

Dr Paul Bate
Chief Executive Officer UK Space Agency
CEOS Chair 2025

Date: 08/10/2025
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Subject: Hellenic Space Center CEOS Membership

Dear CEOS Chair, dear Dr Bate,

The Hellenic Space Center (HSC)¹, Greece's Space Agency, would like to submit its application for becoming an associate member of CEOS. This membership application is strongly motivated by the increased importance that Greece has placed on developing its national space sector as detailed in the recently developed Greek Space Strategy, and further exemplified by the significant investment in Earth Observation capabilities including, *inter alia*, the Greek National Smallsat Programme². The latter is a flagship programme that foresees the development of space segment capabilities (e.g. thermal, SAR, multispectral optical) and operational capacities (the governmental space hub) that will help address the needs of users expressed across a wide range of application areas (e.g. wildfire monitoring, flood preparedness, maritime situational awareness, urban development, and more).

The Greek Space Strategy explicitly aspires to strengthen the role of Greece in international activities and engage in international collaboration. Thus, having been fully briefed about the activities of CEOS and having deep appreciation of CEOS' impact, we consider the possibility to participate in and contribute to CEOS, a strategic goal. To that end, we consider that HSC can successfully represent Greece in this function. HSC, as inscribed in Greek law, is tasked with the coordination amongst Greek Space stakeholders and their mobilization vis-à-vis the national space strategy. Moreover, HSC is entrusted with representing Greece in international organisations, programmes and fora such as ESA Programme Boards, DG DEFIS and DG CONNECT Committees, EUSPA working teams, International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG), Artemis Accords, UN COPUOS, International Astronautical Federation (IAF), etc. In addition, HSC's mission includes fostering scientific and technological excellence in the various domains of Space – with strong focus on Earth Observation; supporting the growth of the national space sector; contributing to the design of new space missions and the exploitation of the generated data and services.

In this context, HSC will also be directly involved in the operations of the assets developed under the Greek National Smallsat Programme. Specifically, HSC will operate, in collaboration with the industrial satellite operator, the missions implemented under this programme. While HSC will not be responsible for nominal spacecraft operations (e.g. station keeping, TT&C, etc.), it will focus on tasking and Payload Data Ground Segment (PDGS)-related activities, ensuring the effective exploitation of mission data and alignment with user needs.

¹ <https://hsc.gov.gr/>

² For more information, please see the attached short presentation

These activities will encompass the following assets and milestones:

- Greek CubeSat In-orbit-Validation (IoV) project: 11 CubeSat in total, 1 CubeSat launched in June 2025, 3 to be launched in November 2025, and the remaining in February/March 2026.
- Greek Connectivity Optical Ground Stations: Upgrade of three telescopes into Optical Ground Stations (OGS) by August 2026.
- Hellenic Assembly, Integration and Testing Facilities (HAITF) – operational by August 2026.
- Hellenic Space Tracking Radar (HSTR) – operational by August 2026.
- Axis 1.1 Thermal mission – launch of 4 Thermal sats scheduled for February/March 2026.
- Axis 1.2 SAR mission – launch of 2 SAR sats scheduled for November 2025.
- Axis 2 Optical mission – launch of 7 Optical sats scheduled for February/March 2026.
- Axis 3 Hub & Services – deployment by June 2026.

In this regard, HSC's operational role in the Greek National Smallsat Programme will ensure the sustained contribution of Greece to the international EO community, enhancing data accessibility, interoperability, and collaborative opportunities within CEOS.

As HSC, we are keen to actively contribute to the activities of CEOS with strong focus on: (i) the CEOS Working Group on Disasters, (ii) the CEOS Working Group on Calibration & Validation, (iii) the CEOS ARD Strategy through our active participation in the Land Surface Imaging LSI-VC.

HSC is confident that it can make meaningful contributions to the abovementioned Working Groups and initiatives:

- **CEOS Working Group on Calibration & Validation (WGCV):** We believe we can substantially contribute given our strong expertise in calibration and validation activities and heritage in climate science, demonstrated also through our practical participation in the CEOS Best Practice Protocol for the Validation of Aerosol, Cloud, and Precipitation Profiles (ACPPV)³.
- **CEOS Working Group on Disasters (WGDisasters):** Greece is severely affected by natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic activity, and HSC can contribute practical experience from both research and operational applications that directly align with the group's objectives.
- **CEOS ARD Strategy (LSI-VC):** Within our national satellite programme, we are already implementing CEOS ARD guidelines to develop ingestion and production workflows for smallsat sensors and payloads (Thermal, SAR & Optical), ensuring compatibility with missions such as Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2 and Landsat, which positions us to contribute effectively to ARD strategy discussions and implementation.

We nominate⁴ [Dimitris Bliziotis](mailto:dimitris.bliziotis@hsc.gov.gr) (Earth Observation Officer, dimitris.bliziotis@hsc.gov.gr) as our *Principal Representative*, and [Prof. Costas Synolakis](mailto:costas@usc.edu) (Vice-President of HSC, costas@usc.edu) for the WG Disasters as our *Contact*, Dr. [Vassilis Amiridis](mailto:vamoir@noa.gr) (Research Associate of HSC, vamoir@noa.gr) for the WG Calibration & Validation as our *Contact*, Dr. [Christina Karakizi](#) (Earth

³ https://ceos.org/document_management/Working_Groups/WGCV/ACPPV_Best_Practice_Book_final.pdf

⁴ Short CVs of the proposed representatives are available [here](#) and [here](#).

Observation Expert, chr.karakizi@hsc.gov.gr) for the LSI-VC as our Contact, which will follow respectively the related activities of the WGs.

We hope you will consider our membership application, and we remain at your disposal for any additional information.

Respectfully,

Dr. Nick Sergis

CEO Hellenic Space Center (HSC)